

(3) identifies potential investments in facilities and capabilities that may enable current and future hydrogen research, development, and testing activities.

SA 1934. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 2528. ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING LARGE POWER TRANSFORMERS.

The Secretary of Energy shall conduct an assessment of existing large power transformers in the United States, identify Government resources that could be leveraged to enhance the domestic manufacturing of large power transformers, and identify any authorities needed to provide such assistance.

SA 1935. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 61, on line 20, insert “Appointment as a program director under this section shall be voluntary, and the Director is not authorized to remove a program director during their appointed term unless for cause.” after “tor.”

Beginning on page 113, strike line 24 and all that follows through line 3 on page 115 and insert the following:

(3) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—During fiscal year 2021 and any fiscal year thereafter, the head of any Federal agency may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303, 3304(b), and 3328 of that title, a qualified candidate described in subparagraph (B) directly to a position in the competitive service with the Federal agency for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

(B) **FELLOWSHIP OR TEMPORARY ROTATIONAL POSTING.**—Subparagraph (A) applies with respect to a former recipient of an award under this subsection who—

(i) earned a doctoral degree in a STEM field from an institution of higher education; and

(ii) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the fellowship or temporary rotational posting within a Federal agency.

(C) **LIMITATION.**—The direct hire authority under this paragraph shall be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate not later than 2 years after the date that the

candidate completed the requirements related to the fellowship or temporary rotational posting described under this subsection.

(D) **NUMBER.**—The number of employees appointed and retained by the Federal Government under this paragraph shall not exceed 10 at any time.

Strike section 2204 and insert the following:

SEC. 2204. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES FOR THE FOUNDATION.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this division, the Director shall contract with the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct a study on the organizational and management structure of the Foundation, to—

(1) evaluate and make recommendations to efficiently and effectively implement the Directorate for Technology and Innovation;

(2) evaluate and make recommendations to ensure coordination of the Directorate for Technology and Innovation with other directorates and offices of the Foundation and other Federal agencies; and

(3) make recommendations for the management of the Foundation’s business and personnel practices, including implementation of the new hiring authorities and program director authorities provided in section 2103.

(b) **REVIEW.**—Upon completion of the study under paragraph (1), the Foundation shall review the recommendations from the National Academy of Public Administration and provide a briefing to Congress on the plans of the Foundation to implement any such recommendations.

Strike section 2665 and insert the following:

SEC. 2665. APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) **DEFINITION OF COVERED PROVISIONS.**—In this section, the term “covered provisions” means the provisions of title 5, United States Code, other than—

- (1) section 2301 of that title;
- (2) section 2302 of that title;
- (3) chapter 33 of that title;
- (4) chapter 71 of that title;
- (5) chapter 72 of that title; and
- (6) chapter 73 of that title.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a 3-year pilot program under which, notwithstanding section 20113 of title 51, United States Code, the Administrator may, with respect to not more than 3,000 designated personnel—

(1) appoint and manage such designated personnel of the Administration, without regard to the covered provisions; and

(2) fix the compensation of such designated personnel of the Administration, without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, at a rate that does not exceed the per annum rate of salary of the Vice President of the United States under section 104 of title 3, United States Code.

(c) **ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (b), the Administrator shall ensure that the pilot program—

(1) uses—

(A) state-of-the-art recruitment techniques;

(B) simplified classification methods with respect to personnel of the Administration; and

(C) broad banding; and

(2) offers—

(A) competitive compensation; and

(B) the opportunity for career mobility.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this division, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) describes in detail—

(A) the use of the pilot program hiring authority under this section, including pay, qualifications, and classification of individuals hired under such authority;

(B) the methods for recruitment under the program; and

(C) efforts being made by the NASA to address any compensation equity issue that may arise as a result of the program;

(2) analyzes the impact of the program on participants, disaggregated by demographic factors including age, race, ethnicity, gender, education, compensation, and job classification;

(3) compares the demographics of the program participants with the demographics of NASA employees outside the program;

(4) assesses the morale and engagement of the NASA workforce participating in the program, as compared to the morale and engagement of the NASA workforce outside the program; and

(5) makes recommendations with respect to the continuation, modification, or permanent codification of the program.

Strike section 2669 and insert the following:

SEC. 2669. SEPARATIONS AND RETIREMENT INCENTIVES.

(a) **VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.**—

Subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3521—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) ‘agency’—

“(A) means an Executive agency as defined under section 105 (other than the Government Accountability Office); and

“(B) includes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(vi)(III), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) shall include an employee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration appointed in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) of section 20113(b) of title 51, without regard to any other provision of such section 20113(b).”;

(2) in section 3523(b)(3)(B), by inserting “(or, during the 7-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021, with respect to an employee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including an employee described in section 3521(2)(C), not to exceed \$40,000)” after “\$25,000”.

(b) **EARLY RETIREMENT.**—Title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 8336(d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “(including, for the purposes of paragraph (2), an employee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration appointed in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) of section 20113(b) of title 51, without regard to any other provision of such section 20113(b))” after “An employee”; and

(2) in section 8414(b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “(including, for the purposes of subparagraph (B), an employee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration appointed in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) of section 20113(b) of title 51, without regard to any other provision of such section 20113(b))” after “an employee”.

SA 1936. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted